



Module 6

Customs and Rituals

Societal Comparisons

Topic: Customs and Rituals	Grade Level: Grade 9	Time: 2 class periods of 40-50 minutes
Minnesota State Standards: Geography-Human Environment 9.3.4.9.1- Students will analyze the interconnectedness of the environment and human activities and the impact of one upon the other.		
Lesson Goal: Students will discuss how customs and rituals vary among African tribes particularly in the area of body beautification, funerals, weddings and rites of passage.		
Lesson Objectives: Students will: Analyze how the environment impacts the way individuals protect and beautify their body. Understand how cultures vary in their concept of beauty. Understand the concept of body beautification as a cultural ritual. Analyze the differences in wedding and funeral customs and rituals. Identify the importance and cultural differences in rites of passage.		
Materials Needed: <i>Windows and Mirrors DVD-Africa</i> Computer Printer Magazines Glue, scissors		Vocabulary: Cultural concept of beauty Body beautification Rites of passage Customs and rituals

Windows & Mirrors-Africa-DVD Study Guide

Lesson 1:

10 minutes:

Large Group- View Customs & Rituals module on *Windows and Mirrors* DVD-Africa

40 minutes:

Discuss the way Africans beautify their bodies.

Discuss the way Americans beautify their bodies.

Create a photo comparison of differences in the way individuals from the African and the North American culture beautify their body. Use the Cultural Jambalaya website or DVD.

Lesson 2:

10 minutes

Large group – View Customs & Rituals module on *Windows and Mirrors* DVD-Africa
Review vocabulary especially the concept of “rites of passage.”

30 minutes:

Identify the type of rites of passage illustrated in the *Windows and Mirrors-Africa* DVD.

Discuss the following questions:

1. What is the purpose of a rite of passage?
2. What dress, food, words are part of the ritual?
3. Why it is important?
4. Have you experienced a rite of passage?